



The Philatelic Prospector

A publication of the Sacramento Philatelic Society P O Box 13284 Sacramento, CA 95813

May 2009

A Note From the President

Dear Sacramento Philatelic Society,

Please accept this note as my sincere “thank you” to you for all of your help and support. These past years as President of this tremendous club has given me much insight to collecting and an opportunity to learn more about you, as well as myself.

One thing I have always believed about any club, not just ours, is the secret to longevity. This club is quickly coming up on its 100th Anniversary. It got there with the help of people who have taken positions within. Officers, Directors, any volunteer position is essential to maintaining the integrity of this fine organization.

Which brings me to my word of “thanks”. Getting married last year and having two wonderful children to raise has made me realize that it is harder for me to commit to being at every Wednesday night meeting. Also I have seen many people within our club getting more involved. Our longevity relies on people like these.

So from time to time it is a good thing to move over and allow someone else to experience the joy of serving. I feel that time for me is now. So at election time you will see my name is not there. Instead I will be involved in serving our club in other areas.

“Thank you” from the bottom of my heart for making it so much fun. I look forward to serving you more in the future.

Happy Stamping!
-Dean Carl
SPS President

** Note from the newsletter editor **

I would like to thank Dean for the role he played as president of this club. He kept things moving and has always encouraged members to get involved. Dean was the biggest factor in my decision to get more involved in the club – and he is correct, the rewards for being involved are many!

I wish Dean enjoyment and success as he devotes time to that most important job of all, raising children. And I hope to see the entire crew at a meeting or two in the future...

Thank you Dean!
-Doug Elliott
SPS Newsletter Editor

2009 Easter Seal Society Benefit Show

The 2009 Easter Seal Benefit Show was a great success and went very well. I appreciate all the help, everyone did a great job. Attendance this year was down a bit, but in spite of that we raised over \$4,100 to benefit Easter Seals, which was more than last year's total!

Once again, thank you to everyone who spent your time and energy to make this year's show a success.

Thank you,
Katherine Pavalasky, Chair

2009 Easter Seal Society Benefit Show Door Prize Winners

The door prizes were handled this year by Phyllis and Dennis Harrison. They coordinated the hourly drawings as well as the drawing for the special prizes at the end of the show.

The four ‘Special Door Prize’ winners for the 2009 Easter Seal Society Benefit Show were:

Vicki Mackintosh, one of our members (#1785)
Nancy Simmons
Steve and Margi VerHey
Tokuo Masudo

Those who donated at the registration desk received 5 tickets for each dollar donated to the Easter Seal Society. Those donations amounted to \$371.

USPS Rate Changes on May 11 – see page 4

Silent Bid Sales

The May silent bid sale was a success. The variety of lots was good, with only a few box lots available.

There were 153 lots with a total minimum bid of \$2170.00. Over two thirds of the lots sold for a total of \$1703.75.

The next Silent Bid Sale will be on August 5th. There will again be a limit of 12 items per seller.

Feature Article this Month



Perfins – Those Holy Stamps

Perfins is a word coined from perforated initials or insignias. It covers stamps through which small holes in the form of some design have been punched for the purpose of private identification. Perfins really go beyond initials and include trademarks, brands, monograms, and letters. They are often referred to as garbage stamps by those collectors who strive for completeness. In England they call perfins SPIFS – Stamps Perforated For Insurance Against Fraud.



Perfins were developed to discourage employee thefts and to prevent the unauthorized use of stamps. Employees could convert unmarked stamps into cash or use for small purchases, private mailings, or to sell at a discount to a person that buys and sells stolen goods. In England you could sell stamps back to the post office. Until perfins were used there was no means of identifying the ownership of unmarked stamps. It was impossible to convict guilty parties without a means of identification.

Joseph Sloper is credited with inventing the stamp perforator in 1868 and this was used in Great Britain. This invention followed his 1858 perforator used for dating British railway tickets. The United States was one of the last major countries to perforate stamps even though merchants, manufacturers, and large associations pressed for a remedy to permit postage to be marked and thus ownership proven. The United States allowed perfins on May 8, 1903. Perfins are defined by Postal Law and Regulation which require that perforated holes do not exceed 1/32 of an inch in diameter and that the total perforation does not exceed 1/2 inch.

The types of perfin collections found include: One of every perfin on every stamp; one issue only with various perfins; a perfin on all issues; a topical approach (especially with railroads, banks, and insurance companies); one company (some large companies have used the same perfin pattern with an extra hole to identify a branch office); officials (OHMS in Canada); revenues (these are used for cancellation of a document or receipt); precancelled stamps; one letter; a word (Boston, bat, beaver or tap); a number; or symbols.

Perfin collectors are generally more interested in the perfin than the stamp. For display purposes you will usually find the stamp mounted face down on a black background. The perforating of a stamp(s) is generally done face up consequently you will find that most perfin patterns are reversed. It is acceptable to collect and display perfins in either a normal or reversed pattern.

There are many perfin patterns that have not been identified. Collectors seek perfined stamps on covers that bear the identity of the user. There are an estimated 35,000 perfins in over 200 countries. England accounts for over 14,000; Germany over 10,000 and the United States for over 6,000.

Perfins sell for a fraction of what a normal stamp would sell for because of supply and demand. There is little demand for these “garbage stamps”.



One organization involved with perfins is “The Perfin Club”. They are an international club, headquartered in the United States, that strives to study, identify, and catalog all perfins.

I personally collect perfins because: 1) They tell a story, 2) They are not expensive – thus not a security problem, 3) They have interesting patterns, and 4) They are challenging.

The Roving Reporter...



We thought we would start by interviewing one of our most illustrious members, Ernie Teays. Ernie was born in St. Louis and came to California in 1966 via Denver. Ernie has been a member of SPS since the early 1980's. Ernie is one of the pillars of our club and always available to help. He also operates the 2 cents boxes which is the source of his fame.

Ernie's claim to fame is the bargain he found one day... It's a story worth repeating because it does not involve any widow women, just patience and perseverance. Ernie found a US 1789b (catalog value \$3,500) in the 2 cent box.

I asked Ernie if he knew it was a 1789b when he found it. “No”, he replied, “but I check all the 1789's I come across.” (did I say patience and perseverance). When he first checked it he thought maybe his perf gauge was defective, so he tried another. Once convinced he really had a 1789b, he sent it off to be expertised (the post office also appreciated his find, placing it in a lock box until it got to its destination).

Ernie collects US and a number of topicals. We seldom have a meeting that Ernie is not there. He is also a member of our board and rumor has it that he will be our next president (but that is just between you and I).

Ernie has been collecting since 1973 (he had no trouble remembering the date, he even remembered the month – May). It was the first anniversary of his marriage and the first anniversary is paper. His wife got him a stamp album and that is how he got started.

By the way, Ernie still has his stamp – in a safe deposit box!

- The Roving Reporter

Notes from the Web



The Lighthouse Stamp Society has a wonderful website at <http://www.lighthousestampsociety.org>. In addition to the Club Information section; there are libraries of images (alphabetically sorted by country) for lighthouse stamps, cancels, cinderellas, postal stationery, photos, money and phonecards. There are literally thousands of pictures here! Stamp images are mostly recent, but there are older stamps pictured also. The Cinderellas section includes not only the expected ‘bogus issues’ and ‘charity seals’ but also ‘commercial labels’, local posts, philatelic labels and patriotic labels as well as duck stamps!

I had no idea that lighthouses were featured prominently on so many different types of paper money and coinage – from the early 19th century German ‘notgeld’ to modern banknotes from Bermuda, Guernsey, Macau, Netherlands, Russia and coins from Poland, Congo and Great Britain.

New Issues – U.S.A.

The Simpsons



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Check it out, man! Philately meets pop culture!

When I first watched “*The Simpsons*” on TV I didn’t think the show would last through the first season. Twenty years later the show is still the star of Fox Studio’s lineup and the United States Postal Service has featured the main characters in a set of stamps released on May 7, 2009.

You can also vote for your favorite Simpsons character at www.usps.com/simpsons until May 14. USPS is promoting the competition with a “Vote Early and Often: It’s the American Way” tagline – irreverent and typically Simpsons...

“We are excited to celebrate *The Simpsons* on postage stamps,” said U.S. Postal Service Executive Director of Stamp Services David Failor. “Eyebrow-raising to say the least, this witty, will-written pop icon continues to irreverently satire its parody of a middle-class family as it lampoons American culture. *The Simpsons* stamps, which includes known philatelist Bart Simpson, will serve as a great opportunity to interest youngsters into stamp collecting.”

“This is the biggest and most adhesive honor *The Simpsons* has ever received,” said Matt Groening, creator and executive producer of *The Simpsons*. “We are emotionally moved by the Postal Service selecting us rather than making the lazy choice of someone who has benefited society,” said James L. Brooks, executive producer of *The Simpsons*.

The U.S. Postal Service receives approximately 50,000 suggestions for stamp subjects each year, yet only about 20 topics are selected for postage. *The Simpsons* is the only television show to be featured as the sole subject of a stamp set while still in primetime production.

Stamp Shows in Our Area

JUN	6-7	Sacramento Stamp Fair Free Admission, Sat 10-6, Sun 10-4 Knights of Columbus Hall 5961 Newman Court, Sacramento, CA
JUL	25-26	NEVPEX Nevada Stamp Study Society National Bowling Stadium Reno, NV http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp
AUG	9	Strait Stamp Show Strait Stamp Society Masonic Lodge, South 5 th and Pine Sequim, WA

National Philatelic Shows

MAY	15-17	ROMPEX Rocky Mountain Phil. Exhibition, Inc www.rockymountainstampshow.com Denver, CO
MAY	15-17	ROPEX Rochester Philatelic Assn www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html Rochester, NY
MAY	22-24	NOJEX North Jersey Federated Stamp Clubs www.nojex.org Secaucus, NJ
MAY	22-24	PIPEX Northwest Fed of Stamp Clubs www.oregonstampsociety.org Portland, OR
JUNE	12-14	National Topical Stamp Show American Topical Association www.americantopicalassn.org Dayton, OH
JULY	17-19	Minnesota Stamp Expo Twin City Philatelic Society www.stampsmnnesota.com Minneapolis, MN
JUL/AUG	31-2	AMERICOVER American First Day Cover Society www.afdcs.org Boxboro, MA
AUG	6-9	APS STAMPSHOW American Philatelic Society David L Lawrence Conv. Center www.stamps.org Pittsburgh, PA
SEPT	4-6	BALPEX Baltimore Philatelic Society www.balpex.org Hunt Valley, MD

Only World Series of Philately shows are included

For more shows and contact details go to:

http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_ShowCalendar.htm

Nominations for the May 2009 Election

President	Ernie Teays
Vice President	Ken Hilmer Fred Rickert
Secretary	Keith Loder
Treasurer	John Pavalasky
Directors (2)	Dean Carl Harry Mueggenburg

The election will be held at the regular club meeting on May 27, 2009. The newly elected officers will take office on June 3, 2009.

S.P.S. Calendar

Regular meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 7–9PM at the Easter Seal Center, 3205 Hurley Way.

May	6	Silent Bid Auction, no 2¢ boxes/circuit
	13	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	20	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	27	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
Jun	3	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	10	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	17	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	24	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
Jul	1	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	8	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	15	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	22	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	29	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
Aug	5	Silent Bid Auction, no 2¢ boxes/circuit
	12	Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45)
	19	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.
	26	Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit.

Each meeting we normally have our club circuit and penny boxes available for your shopping pleasure. There are also members who enjoy just talking about their collections or helping you with yours. You might even find a member with a similar interest as you have and you can initiate a stamp swap. Come see us – it's a lot of fun. 'Shoe Boxes' of 2¢ stamps can be taken home to search through during the week.

Member Presentations

May	20	Jim Stewart – US Penalty Envelopes
June	17	Fred Rickert – Vicissitudes of Fortune
July	15	David Coleman – US Fancy Cancels

Let's try for a member presentation every 3rd Wed!!!
If you have a topic or area of interest that you would like to give a short presentation on, please contact Anson Stout.

Current USPS Rates – Changed May 11

Domestic:

- First-Class Mail Letter (1 oz) - 44¢
- First-Class Mail Letter (2 oz) - 61¢
- Rigid Envelope Surcharge - 20¢
- Postcard - 28¢
- Large Envelope (2 oz) - \$1.05
- Certified Mail - \$2.80

International:

- First-Class Mail Int'l Letter (1 oz):
 - to Canada - 75¢
 - to Mexico - 79¢
 - to other countries - 98¢

Officers & Board of Directors

President	Dean Carl
Vice President	Harry Mueggenburg
Secretary	Ken Mitchell
Treasurer	John Pavalasky

Board of Directors

Ernie Teays	(thru 5/2009) (Chairman)
Dean Carl	(thru 5/2009)
Nabil Haddad	(thru 5/2009)
Joanne Berkowitz	(thru 5/2010)
Katie Pavalasky	(thru 5/2010)
Ken Hilmer	(thru 5/2011)
Jim Stewart	(thru 5/2011)

Committee Chairmen

Easter Seal Show	Katie Pavalasky
Library	Ken Hilmer
Membership	Debbie Jean Hopkins
Programs	Anson Stout
Prospector	Doug Elliott
SACAPEX	Dean Carl
Website	Dean Carl

Call for Articles

If you have a collecting interest that you would like to share with the club and feel more comfortable doing so in written form, please send it to me via email at **nzstampsinca 'at' gmail.com**. You can also get a printed version to me at one of the Wednesday meetings – I can scan and/or retype it as necessary. Typical articles will run from ½ to a full page of text and images. A full page of regular 12 point text occupies just over 1 column in the newsletter – add images and you've got a full 2 columns!

First Day Cancellation Information

All **first day cancellations** may be received after affixing stamps and sending to:

Customer Affixed Envelopes

Postmaster

_____ (*first day city*)

_____ - 9991 (5 digit ZIP + 9991)

Up to 50 FDCs may be submitted for cancellation at no cost, additional covers are charged 5¢ each. If you want them returned without addresses, you must enclose a self addressed envelope, with sufficient postage applied, to insure their return. There is no charge for this service.

Visit the S.P.S. Website

**Can't find your prospector?
Can't remember what is when?**

Dean Carl continues to amaze those of us who are computer challenged. Updates get done so quickly that we wonder how he does it. The SPS website at sacramentophilatelicociety.org is where you can keep up with current activities, future events, see copies of the Prospector from the last twelve months, and explore links to other websites of interest.